

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5323

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

Received

NOVEMBER 13, 2006

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for ceremonies on or near Independence Day for administering oaths of allegiance to legal immigrants whose applications for naturalization have been approved.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Proud to Be an Amer-  
3 ican Citizen Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       The Congress finds as follows:

6           (1) The United States is a nation of immi-  
7 grants.

8           (2) Immigrants strengthen the economic and  
9 political ties of the United States with other nations.

10          (3) Immigrants enhance the Nation’s ability to  
11 compete in the global market.

12          (4) Immigrants contribute to the Nation’s sci-  
13 entific, literary, artistic, and other cultural re-  
14 sources.

15          (5) A properly regulated system of legal immi-  
16 gration is in the Nation’s interest.

17          (6) The Naturalization Oath of Allegiance im-  
18 presses on new United States citizens—

19               (A) the shared American values of liberty,  
20 democracy, and equal opportunity; and

21               (B) the obligation to respect and abide by  
22 the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.

23          (8) Naturalization rewards legal immigrants  
24 who have abided by all Federal laws and Depart-  
25 ment of Homeland Security regulations.

1           (9) Naturalization bestows all the legal rights,  
2           privileges, and responsibilities of a United States cit-  
3           izen.

4   **SEC. 3. INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES FOR OATHS OF**  
5           **ALLEGIANCE.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
7           rity shall make available funds each fiscal year to the Di-  
8           rector of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or to  
9           public or private nonprofit entities to support public cere-  
10          monies for administering oaths of allegiance under section  
11          337(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
12          1448(a)) to legal immigrants whose applications for natu-  
13          ralization have been approved.

14          (b) CEREMONIES.—A ceremony conducted with funds  
15          under this section—

16                (1) shall be held on a date that is on or near  
17                Independence Day; and

18                (2) shall include appropriate outreach, ceremo-  
19                nial, and celebratory activities.

20          (c) SELECTION OF SITES.—

21                (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland  
22                Security shall select the site for each ceremony con-  
23                ducted with funds under this section.

1           (2) SELECTION PROCESS.—In selecting a site  
2           under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
3           curity should consider—

4                   (A) the number of naturalization appli-  
5                   cants living in proximity to the site; and

6                   (B) the degree of participation in and sup-  
7                   port for the ceremony by the local community  
8                   at the site.

9           (d) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE; USE OF FUNDS.—

10           (1) AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.—Amounts made  
11           available under this section for each ceremony shall  
12           not exceed \$5,000.

13           (2) FUNDS.—Funds made available under this  
14           section may be used only for the following:

15                   (A) Costs of personnel of U.S. Citizenship  
16                   and Immigration Services and the Federal judi-  
17                   ciary (including travel and overtime expenses).

18                   (B) Site rental, including audio equipment  
19                   rental.

20                   (C) Logistical requirements, including  
21                   sanitation.

22                   (D) Costs for printing brochures about the  
23                   naturalization participants and the naturaliza-  
24                   tion process.

1           (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds that are  
2           otherwise available to the Department of Homeland  
3           Security to carry out naturalization activities shall  
4           be available to carry out this section.

5           (e) APPLICATION.—No amount may be made avail-  
6           able under this section to an entity that is not part of  
7           the Department of Homeland Security, for supporting a  
8           ceremony described in subsection (b), unless—

9           (1) the entity submits an application to the Sec-  
10          retary of Homeland Security, in a form and manner  
11          specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security;  
12          and

13          (2) the Secretary of Homeland Security ap-  
14          proves the application.

Passed the House of Representatives September 25,  
2006.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*